GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1195
ANSWERED ON:22.07.2002
SALINATION OF SUB SOIL WATER
T.T.V. DHINAKARAN

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the salination of sub-soil water in the coastal regions in the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken to protect the ground water from salination;

(c) whether any survey has been conducted in this regard; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken thereon?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SMT. BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) As per survey conducted by the Central Ground WaterBoard (CGWB)and State Ground Water Departments, salination of sub-soil water have been observed in coastal areas of Tamil Nadu, Orissa, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Gujarat.

Water being a State subject, necessary steps to protect ground water from salination are to be taken by the concerned State Governments. The NationalWater Policy, 2002, inter-alia, provides that each coastal State should prepare a comprehensive coastal land management plan, keeping in view the environmental and ecological impacts, and regulate the developmental activities accordingly. However, the CGWBhas also undertaken some schemes for arresting saline water ingress in coastal areas of Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh during IX FiveYear Plan under its Central Sector Scheme for Study ofRecharge of Ground Water on "pilot basis". The Central Ground Water Authorityhas declared the Union Territory of Diu as 'Notified Area' in view of saline water ingress in fresh ground water aquifer.